

# the Native Voice

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIVE BROTHERHOOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, INC.

Vol. XI. No. 7.

VANCOUVER, B.C., JULY, 1957

2

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## R.C.M.P. TRACKING DOG RIP IS THIS BOY'S BEST FRIEND

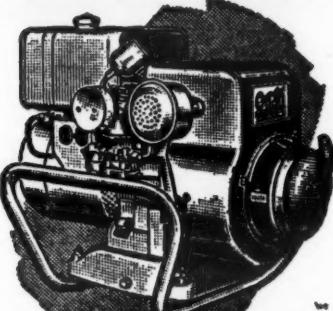


TINY TWO-YEAR-OLD Benjamin Joseph, hereditary chief of British Columbia's Squamish Indians, missing for a whole night in the dense brush of Capilano Reserve, was found by RCMP tracking

dog "Rip." Benny and his best friend are pictured a few minutes after the June 7 rescue. The tribe expressed its appreciation in a formal resolution.

—Courtesy Vancouver Province

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# Silent Dawn Celebrates Birthday

A famous American Indian leader is celebrating his eighty-first birthday this month and his friends in California have arranged quite a surprise to commemorate the event.

Chief Silent Dawn (Col. Ted Davis) doesn't know or at least he didn't when THE NATIVE VOICE went to press, but Hon. Jerrell Babe of Los Angeles, California, wrote to report that Chief Silent Dawn had been elected to president of the Texas State Society.

In the words of Babe, an old friend of the noted Native, "We have quite a surprise for the old Indian when he returns, because he was unanimously elected president of the Texas State Society, comprised of about 450,000 former Texans.

"It is needless to say how proud our State is in his having been born in the Lone Star State.

"He has been and still is quite a controversial individual and an old soldier, and an old Indian who lives life as he sees it," Jerrell Babe wrote. "He asks no odds and gives none, but we have found that when the chips are down, he never backs up and with the majority of them, he is all right. Perhaps that is why he is loved so greatly by his people, and by the majority of other races . . .

"He has always been able to give a greater incentive to higher thoughts and nobler deeds for his people, because of the knowledge he has of the white man's civilization in living up to the ideals of the legions of his people."

(Continued on Page 8)



—Courtesy Vancouver Province

**CHIEF SILENT DAWN** achieved one of his ambitions last year during a visit to B.C. for the Native Brotherhood convention when he met RCMP officers in Vancouver. Constable Frank Johnston took time out to show noted U.S. Native the sights.

## ALL AMERICAN INDIAN DAYS

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# 'Copper' In Grave

A slim, bespectacled city archaeologist a few weeks ago kneeled excitedly in a pit on the Fraser River delta and carefully brushed the dirt from what he called "the most spectacular find on the B.C. coast."

Dr. E. C. Borden, of the University of B.C. Anthropology Department talked excitedly as he viewed the skeleton of an Indian buried with assorted personal possessions more than 2,000 years ago.

It is one of several skeletons of this era discovered in the Fraser delta area but none of the others have had such items buried with them.

Buried in the latest grave unearthed were a weasel, an eagle and a breast-plate of burnished copper decorated with dentalium shells.

Dr. Borden said this was what made the find sensational.

"It is the first time a grave has yielded such artifacts and they will be tremendously valuable in interpreting burial rites and identifying the tribe by association," he said.

The exact age of the skeleton will be identified by analysis of coals of long dead campfires by the radioactive carbon method of dating.

The find was uncovered by four UBC students working at the site of an old Indian village near Beach Grove, 20 miles from Vancouver, at Boundary Bay.

Jim Baldwin, of Prince Rupert; Charmain Westphal of Ladner, Nansi Swayze of Toronto, and Don Abbot, of Vancouver are camped at the site and have been excavating under the direction of Dr. Borden.

Eight other skeletons and numerous household implements and weapons of war have been excavated at the site.

Ruins of living quarters have also been excavated.

## Diplomas For Young Natives

KAMLOOPS, B.C. — Ten young Indians whose homes are in widely scattered parts of the province, received high school graduation diplomas at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, early in June.

Members of the class are: Susan Ellen Alexis of Vernon, Lila Deanna George of Duncan, Charles Gilbert of Williams Lake, Arnold George Guerin of Kuper Island, Mary Rose Hayes of Tofino, Eugene

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## Tax Case Decision Reserved

Decision was reserved by B.C. Court of Appeal in June on a question whether an unenfranchised Indian living on the reserve is subject to the Income Tax Act.

Judge McGeer upheld the dismissal by Magistrate R. C. Palmer of Richmond of a charge against Francis Point, a fisherman of the Musqueam Reserve. He was charged with failing to file an income tax return.

The County Court judge said he

had grave doubts that Point was subject to the Income Tax Act and he dismissed the appeal taken by the Income Tax Department.

A further appeal was then taken on behalf of the department by D. McK. Brown and Robert Edwards to Court of Appeal. H. R. Bray appeared for Point.

## Appreciation Extended

The Native Voice,  
Dear Friends:

Please extend by appreciation to all who are in any way connected with this wonderful "Voice" and to all the readers.

Chas. Solomon Wells,  
Attleboro, Mass.

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## Canadian Indians Look To Ottawa for New Deal

CANADA'S Indians join the rest of the Canadian people in looking toward Ottawa for realization of some of the pledges and promises made by the newly-elected Progressive-Conservative Government.

For 22 years, the Government of today was seated in opposition and during that time advanced many important and constructive proposals. Tax cuts, higher old age pensions, a Canadian Bill of Rights, and fair play for the Native Canadians were among its recommendations.

That latter point was made most evident during the debate on the Indian Act and certainly in the discussion of the proposed eviction of 118 Indians from Alberta's Hobbema Reservation earlier this year.

There was no question of the Progressive-Conservative position at that time, a position of principle which won the warm endorsement of Canadian Natives.

But it is one thing to be an Opposition critic and another to sit in the seat of authority and institute policies.

The real test of the new Government's sincerity will come when it brings down its program of legislative action.

We as a newspaper will neither praise nor condemn until we see concretely what that program will include, but we feel very strongly that the Native policy of full citizenship rights with retention of all aboriginal rights cannot long be overlooked by any government sincerely interested in justice for the first people of Canada.

There are many other aspects of Native policy which we have advanced over the years. They are all on the record and will not be covered here.

For now, we await with something more than passing interest the new Government's plans and proposals. We are sure that it will never fall from power on the basis of legislation that will benefit the Natives of Canada.

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### A Letter

## From Friends in Germany

Ria Muller-Fricken  
 Frankfurt/Main  
 Baustr. 4  
 Germany

The Native Voice Publishing Co., Ltd.,  
 325 Standard Building,  
 Vancouver 2, B.C., Canada.

Dear Sirs:

I just received the first number of your journal 'NATIVE VOICE' of April 1957, which we, my nephew Hans-Peter and I, ordered by the Buchhandlung Herder in Frankfurt.

We should like to express that its contents interested us exceedingly though it is for us somewhat difficult to translate. For we are Germans, and there are many expressions which I do not understand and many words that are perfectly strange to me — it is a sphere in some ways quite new to us.

We must tell you that we are friends of the Indians. When we were children we used to read books about them and their fights. For many years, Indians were our friends and brothers and admired heroes, though they only lived in our imagination.

When we were younger, we studied their history, their heroic fights for their country and for their right of living, as well as the history of their great chiefs. So we were delighted to read in your journal the name of the Mohawk chief Joseph Brant (Tayen-da-negeas, The One-Who-Holds-Two-Bets) and the name of Tecumseh, the Shawano chief, perhaps the greatest hero the Indians had — both still unforgetten in their people. We felt as if we had come to a lost paradise. For we know that today everything has changed and we learned that the Indians of today are living like the whites, a thing we greatly regret.

But from The Native Voice it seems as if there were left real Indians still today. And now they are for us no longer figures in a book only — not living in reality — no they are alive still, they speak about their interests and needs. It is like a wonder, like entering the land of our red brothers.

Indians have many friends in Germany. We are united in clubs and have also periodicals, and Hans-Peter and I are writing articles for them. I do not know what the Native Brotherhood means, whether it is religious or political, but we should like very much to know whether the publishers mentioned are all of Indian blood? Do you think there will be an Indian who is willing to correspond with Hans-Peter and me? Since years this is our desire: to change letters with Indians. I cannot issue an advertisement in this respect as there seems to be no way for a private person here to pay for it. Yet I wrote to the Buchhandlung Herder, asking whether they can arrange it. What does such an advertisement cost?

We enclose a coupon which will be changed into stamps at your post office, for we should be very glad if someone would be kind enough to send us an answer to this letter. Please excuse all the mistakes.

RIA MUELLER-FRICKEN  
 HANS-PETERBUCHS



## Longhouse in New Quarters

The Longhouse is now established in its new headquarters at 1501 N. Larabee St., Chicago, Ill. We have three large rooms, newly decorated. Heno-wis-ka has completed the painting of an authentic Totem pole on one of the large columns. All Indian Tribes are to be depicted in their Tribal dress. One wall is being reserved for the replica of an authentic Iroquois Longhouse.

Various Tribal Legends and authentic Indian history, told by Indians, will be recorded on tape recorders. Charts and pamphlets put out by Akwesasne Mohawk Counsellors will also be used to keep alive Indian history.

Al Cobe, life member of The Longhouse, is in charge of all Indian activities for this area of the YMCA. An Indian welfare group has been formed.

Mrs. Irene Dixon, Little Mosquito, our Longhouse secretary of Indian Affairs, is chairman of the steering committee of this welfare

group. There are to be INDIAN welfare workers. We feel Indians are better able to cope with welfare work among their own people than NON-INDIANS. This also will be a clothing distribution centre and other aid given where it is needed.

It must be remembered, this is a LONGHOUSE enterprise. No other welfare group is connected with us. There is no influence from the Indian Bureau. All donations for this Indian welfare must be made out to The Longhouse; also all monies derived through our speakers and shown go through The Longhouse, into the WELFARE FUND to benefit INDIANS.

Keep up your dues in order to receive news. A year's subscription to The Native Voice. This excellent publication is the only paper to carry news of The Longhouse.

SKA-RON-IATE

# Skeena Folk Mourn Loss of Chief Silas Johnson

By HAROLD SINCLAIR, Kitwanga, B.C.

I was away to Kispiox, B.C., recently where I attended the funeral of our late brother, honored Chief Silas Johnson, and was requested to speak on behalf of our organization, the Native Brotherhood of B.C. at the graveside of the late Chief. I recalled to the attention of the people gathered from different villages the activities of the late Chief and the times of his attending our Brotherhood Conventions at Bella Bella and other places where he had attended other conventions and other meetings. Although he had but little education, he certainly had a big heart and broadmindedly tried to present his people at all times.

Mr. Walter Harris, a young man of Kispiox, B.C.

This was one of the largest gatherings I have ever seen, from all different villages, as well as many white people gathered.

Two bands played at the funeral, the Kitwanga Totem Pole Band and the Kispiox Home Town Band.

HAROLD SINCLAIR.

## Our Sympathy

The Native Voice expresses deepest sympathy to his family and all people of the Skeena in their loss of a fine leader, Chief Silas Johnson, one of the highest ranking Chiefs of the Tsimpsians.

Chief Johnson's life was devoted to fighting for better conditions for his people. He was devoutly religious and was instrumental, through his personal example, in setting a high moral standard for his people.

He was one of the top leaders of the Native Brotherhood of B.C. and his loss will be keenly felt by the organization.

We join his many friends and admirers in mourning the loss of this great Chief.

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# May Day at Haida

May Day celebrations were held on May 18 and 19 in Haida.

A large parade of trucks decorated in honor of the ex-Queen and the new Queen was sponsored by the Haida Homemakers' Club. Wheelbarrow, tricycles, bicycles, dolls' and baby buggies were also in the parade.

A miniature "Mountie" was guarding the Royal Party and the main truck while children dressed as Chinese, Indians, cowboys, Negroes and boys dressed as girls, etc., followed behind the trucks. It was quite a sight and also very comical.

When the parade reached the playground, Mr. Matthews, in the absence of the chief councillor, crowned the queen. Mr. Matthews said he was honored to be able to crown the queen.

He thanked the people for having organized a new club called the Haida Homemakers who were sponsoring the celebrations on May Day. He wished all the fishermen and cannery workers loads of luck this season. These were

his actual words:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to crown the new Queen of the May, Grace Mavis Bell of Haida for the year 1957 and may she reign with all the best wishes and happiness of the Haida Homemakers Club."

Prizes were awarded for the best costumes and best decorated vehicles.

Softball and football games were played at the end of the afternoon. On Sunday the Haida Homemakers played against the single girls.

Last Sunday Miss Ruby Weir passed away on the plane during the flight to Queen Charlotte City Hospital. It is quite a loss for Haida, she was the teacher for Grade 2. Everybody felt very sorry to lose such a fine girl. The funeral was very impressive and one of the largest held at Haida.

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Continued

# Tecumseh and the War of 1812

"It was with unspeakable pain that I saw, soon after I got on board of the "Niagara," the flag of the "St. Lawrence" come down; although I was perfectly sensible that she had been defended to the last, and that to have continued to make a show of resistance would have been a wanton sacrifice of the remains of her brave crew. But the enemy were not able to take possession of her, and cir-

cumstances soon permitted the flag again to be hoisted. At forty-five minutes past two the signal was made for "Close Action"; the "Niagara" being very little injured, I determined to pass through the enemy's line, bore up, passed ahead of their two ships and a brig, giving a raking fire to them, from the starboard guns and to a large schooner and sloop on the starboard side, at half pistol-

shot distance. The smaller vessels at this time having got within grape and canister distance, under the direction of Capt. Elliott, and keeping up a well directed fire, the two ships, a brig and a schooner making a vain attempt to escape.

"Those officers and men who were immediately under my observation, evinced the greatest gallantry; and I have no doubt but all others conducted themselves as became American officers and seamen. Lieutenant Yarnell, 1st officer of the "St. Lawrence," although several times wounded, refused to quit the deck. Midshipman Forest (doing duty as Lieutenant), and Sailing-Master Taylor, were of great assistance to me. I have great pain in stating to you the death of Lieut. Brook. Brook of the Marines and Midshipman Lamb, both of the "St. Lawrence," and Midshipman John Clark of the "Scorpion"; they were valuable and promising officers. Mr. Hamilton, Purser, who volunteered his services on deck, was severely wounded, late in the action. Midshipman Claxton and Swartout of the "St. Lawrence" were severely wounded. On board the "Niagara," Lieutenants Smith and Edwards and Midshipman Webster, (doing duty as Sailing-Master), behaved in a very handsome manner. Captain Brevoort of the Army who acted as a volunteer, in the capacity of Marine Officer on board that vessel, is an excellent and brave officer, and with musketry, did great execution.

Lieut. Turner, commanding the "Caledonia," brought his vessel into action in a most able manner, and is an officer in all situations, that may be relied on.

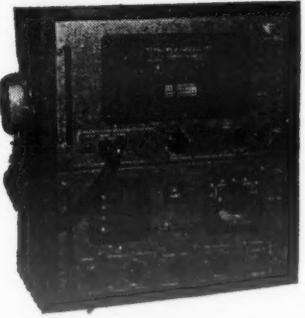
"The "ARIEL," Lieutenant Packet, and the "SCORPION," Sailing-Master Chaplain, were able to get early into action, and were of great service. Capt. Elliott speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Ma-

grath, Purser, who had been patched in a boat, on service, previous to my getting on board "NIAGARA"; and being a seamstress since the action has rendered essential service in taking charge some of the prizes.

"Of Capt. Elliott, already known to the government, it would be most superfluous to speak: in action he evinced his characteristic bravery and judgment; since the close of the action given me the most able and efficient assistance.

(To be Continued)

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## Vancouver Province

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# B.C. Natives Should Share Rich Striking Salmon Runs

By GUY WILLIAMS

THE Stikine River is every bit equal to the Skeena River, possibly slightly bigger the volume of flow, but the drainage area is about the same.

The B.C.-Alaska boundary is 24 miles from the bar at the main entrance to the river from Wrangell, Alaska.

The tide reaches up the river slightly more than 13 miles. According to the natives (Tlinglets) the spring salmon run begins in a month of February while the river is still frozen and continues through the summer. Cohoes, sockeye, pinks and chums would be out the same as northern B.C. It is possible and to all appearances, this river has supported commercial fishing to the extent at the Naas and Skeena Rivers for B.C. salmon fishermen, only the Stikine, Americans get all the fish. There are no up-to-the-minute figures available and I believe the Americans do not keep close figures on their catches the Canadians do. The American fisherman really have something on a golden platter. It is quite possible that over 80 per cent of the salmon of the Stikine river spawns on Canadian territory with the possible exception pink salmon.

#### VER HAS STOOD UP

In spite of the very harsh methods of gillnetting the Americans have, the river has stood up very well as far as escapement is concerned.

Gillnetters are allowed 300 fathoms of net in length, most of them flat bottom boats and quite lapidated with outboard motors and they fish the bars at the immediate mouth of the river or drift on all stages of the tide. On the run out or ebb, they allow themselves to go high and dry on the bars with the full length of their nets out.

On the flood or incoming tide, when the bars are one or two feet deep, the fish begin to run over the bars toward the river and the net becomes a natural barrier. The water being very muddy like the Fraser River, there is no escape; the fish are caught as the nets do not drift men on the bars. Luckily all bars cannot be fished this way.

#### AIR INCOME

Upon inquiring about the estimated earnings of the fishermen, they claimed it would be from \$500 to \$5,000 for the 1956 sockeye season.

It is difficult to determine how large the runs are or rather the capement. According to the natives from Telegraph Creek (Tahltans), 160 miles up the river as good as ever; that is, for sockeye and springs.

It is one of the finest rivers in the northwest for coho salmon and it is claimed that no river can match it for large yearly runs of this particular species.

#### G AREA OPEN

From the Alaska boundary for over 20 miles up or to the juncture of the Chutine River, the Stikine can be fished economically for commercial purposes, although certain parts of the river will have to be cleared of snags by a snag boat which is already operating there. This should not be too much of a problem. Test drifts can be made from time to time to determine the escapement of salmon by our Federal Fisheries

#### IMPORTANT REPORT

The accompanying report was prepared for delivery to the 1957 Native Brotherhood convention, but postponement of the gathering so far prompted author Guy Williams to have the important and interesting study published earlier for the information of members. The trip which the report is based was made last year under the auspices of Canada's then Minister of Fisheries James Sinclair.

Department, and regulations put into force if necessary.

Boats and equipment should be shallow draft boats with inboard engines. The length of boats used in this river should be from 24 to 28 feet. I do not believe that outboard engines would be satisfactory, but the boats would be equipped with small net-drums or nigger heads. Nets should be no longer than 75 fathoms and 30 meshes deep for sockeye and possibly 25 meshes deep for other species.

All test drifts we made proved to be very satisfactory both in the catches of sockeye and spring salmon. It certainly proves substantial earnings can be made in this river on the entire run of all species of salmon.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF FISH

The question of how to transport the fish out is problem number one. Naturally, down-river is the answer, but that would be through American territory and this is for Ottawa and the minister of fisheries to arrange with Alaska or Washington. This should be done at the earliest possible time for there is no use in thinking of transporting it up the river.

I believe a freezing unit of flake ice is one answer and if possible treated with aureomycin. Transporting ice from Wrangell will not be any more economical as Wrangell is 10 miles from the mouth of the river.

If the fish is to be iced in the round for transportation, then gillnetting is not the answer, as all fishermen know a certain amount of damage is caused by gillnet markings on the fish and this is more noticeable on fish caught in swift running rivers as the case will be along the stretch of river where the fishing will be done.

#### FAVORS FISH WHEELS

I personally recommend that the use of fish wheels be investigated so as to get unmarked fish of sound and firm quality, not soft, as otherwise would be in the case of gillnet caught fish.

These fish wheels have been in use at the Yukon River and as far as I know have proven satisfactory and if necessary the fish wheel method should be considered.

The Native Brotherhood of B.C. views this fishery to be an opportunity for the displaced fishermen of the Naas and Skeena Rivers

who were let out by the companies operating in the Naas-Skeena area and who are strictly river men. In due time, the Tahltans could participate if they should take to commercial fishing.

doubt was a successful one.

The Native Brotherhood should continue to make efforts for establishment of Canadian fisheries in the Stikine.

The already established gillnet fishermen should not participate here as they will have to get entirely different equipment and boat to be able to operate on the Stikine.

#### GREAT SALMON RIVER

In conclusion, I say that the Stikine is a great salmon river. It has supported Alaskan fishermen or fisheries for many years with practically no effort on their part for conservation of future runs and I have reason to believe that no work is being done on the spawning grounds other than observation of the said grounds and this is not enough.

While there may be problems to overcome, this river can be fished economically and satisfactorily on a commercial basis and can be the means of livelihood for a good many Natives.

I want to thank the Canadian Fisheries Department for their kind and generous co-operation in making their boats and men available for the survey and trip to the Stikine River, which without a



—Courtesy Vancouver Province

**GUY WILLIAMS**

... long-time executive member of the Native Brotherhood and salmon seine captain.

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**Silent Dawn**

(Continued from Page 2)

Chief Silent Dawn made a great impression last year when he came to British Columbia as a guest of the Native Brotherhood and attended the annual convention.

He won many friends while here and they join the host of others in all parts of Canada and the U.S. in extending their best wishes to this noted Native.

The Native Voice and officials and members of the Native Brotherhood in particular extend their

*Jesus  
the Light of the  
World*

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**Colorful Farewell for Doctor**

PORT RENFREW, B.C. — A

young Canadian physician credited with saving the lives of many young Indians has been honored by the band on his departure for a course at Stanford University, California. Dr. K. J. Davies, 33, was guest of honor at a spectacular Indian potlatch here. After three years of service he has become known to the tribe as "the beloved one."

The Band, in traditional cedar bark costumes, staged ancient dances as a farewell. More than 200 white persons watched the colorful ceremony in the commun-

— congratulations to Chief Silent Dawn and hope he will celebrate many more birthdays and continue his good work.

Col. Ted Davis carries on many activities for his people which keep him away from home most of the time. His plans, following birthday celebrations, include a trip to Washington on behalf of American Indians and possibly a trip to South America later.

ity hall.

The dark-haired young doctor, father of four children, and a former RCAF pilot, was deeply moved.

"I never expected anybody would do anything like this for me," he said.

Chief Charles Queesto Jones, known as "chief of all chiefs," related how Dr. Davies had saved lives of many Indians injured in logging accidents.

"The winds and the storms never stopped him from visiting the sick," he said. "When the bridges were out he came to us in a canoe.

"We love him not for what he is but for the spirit that moves him."

Others told how the doctor purchased medicine from his own pocket for Indians who were too poor to afford it.

The Indians, a famed seafaring band who have hunted whales in dugout canoes, staged their famous Kuawquathle dance (dance of joy) for him.

Summoning the spirits to watch and to guard the doctor, Chief

Jones said:

"O wind, be kind to the beloved one who has served my people. May his life be as peaceful as gentle brook that flows through the green forest."

As he spoke, a young Indian pointed out the window to the west. A white star moved across the heavens.

"See," he said, "the spirits heard."

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